



STATE APPROVAL OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS

200 W. Baltimore Street ♦ Baltimore MD 21201 ♦ Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools

Revised August 2001

What is state program approval?

Maryland has regulatory authority over the professional educator preparation programs offered by Maryland colleges and universities. This assures citizens that those who are prepared, certified, and employed in Maryland have completed an educator preparation program that meets state and national standards. Preparation programs offered include early childhood education, elementary education, special education, specific secondary content areas, educational administration, school counseling, reading specialist, school psychology, and educational media.

What kinds of things does the state look for when it reviews programs?

When state teams evaluate college and university programs, they look for these things:

- ♦ adherence to state and national standards
- ♦ strong academic foundation
- ♦ extensive internships, preferably in professional development schools
- ♦ performance assessment throughout programs
- ♦ links to K-12 priorities.

How often do preparation programs face state review?

On-site program approval reviews are conducted every five years. When institutions seek accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation, as required by state law, the Maryland State Department of Education works in partnership to evaluate the program simultaneously for state approval purposes.

What are the outcome options following a state review?

The outcomes may be of three types: full approval, probation, or denial:

- ♦ **Full approval** lasts for five years. This recommendation may specify that one or more issues need to be addressed in a given period of time, such as inclusion of certain important information in the college catalog or adequate implementation of a required plan.
- ♦ **Probation** is a form of approval that is limited to one or two years with state monitoring. During probation, the institution and its students receive the benefits of state approval, such as interstate reciprocity. To conclude the probationary status and restore full five-year approval, the State Superintendent of Schools must determine that the conditions of probation have been met. If these conditions are not met, the State Superintendent terminates state approval.
- ♦ **Denial** means that the program is no longer approved by the state.